NOTEWORTHY COLLECTIONS

CALIFORNIA

ARCTOSTAPHYLOS MEWUKKA Merriam subsp. MEWUKKA (ERICACEAE).—Mariposa Co., chaparral covered slopes above Merced River, Hwy 140, E of Briceberg, 530 m. T3S R18E, with *Adenostoma fasciculatum* and *Arctostaphylos viscida,* 15 Sept 1993, *J. Keeley & M. Keeley 25100* (LOC); chaparral 1 km W of Mt. Bullion, lower edge of chaparral belt, with *Adenostoma fasciculatum* and *Arctostaphylos viscida,* 650 m, 15 Sept 1993, *J. Keeley & M. Keeley 25108* (LOC); Tuolumne Co., Priest Grade, Hwy 120, <1 km W of Priest, 1 yr old burned chaparral with *Adenostoma fasciculatum, Arctostaphylos viscida* and *Heteromeles arbutifolia,* 690 m, 14 Sept 1993, *J. Keeley & M. Keeley 25086* (LOC).

Previous knowledge. Upper edge of chaparral and exposed ridges in coniferous forest above 800 m (P. V. Wells, *Arctostaphylos* in The Jepson Manual, University of California Press, Berkeley, 1993) or 830 m (K. A. Schierenbeck et al., Plant Systematics and Evolution 179:187, 1992), western Sierra Nevada. Burl-forming *A. mewukka* is widely considered to be restricted to an elevational band between the upper range of the non-sprouting chaparral taxon *A. viscida* and the lower range of the burl-forming coniferous taxon *A. patula.*

Significance. Extends elevational range in the central Sierra Nevada by nearly 300 m down into the lower margins of chamise chaparral. From southern Tuolumne Co. to central Mariposa Co. It appears that *A. mewukka* is a significant component of the low elevation chamise chaparral. Apparently it has been overlooked in this region because it co-occurs with the superficially similar white-leaved *A. viscida.* Indeed, I have traveled Priest Grade (Hwy 120) more than a dozen times without suspecting I was observing slopes dominated by two species of manzanita. This is due partly to the ease with which *A. viscida* recruits along roadcuts, thus making it accessible to botanists, in contrast to the *A. mewukka* embedded in nearly impenetrable chaparral. However, following a 1992 wildfire, the resprouting *A. mewukka* was readily exposed across the slopes. From a distance, *A. mewukka* is difficult to distinguish from *A. viscida* but there are subtle differences such as the more sprawling habit, larger leaves and slightly different hue.

This finding is significant for two reasons. It clarifies a long standing mystery as to why the chaparral of the central and southern Sierra Nevada lacked a resprouting manzanita; chaparral in the Coast Ranges, Transverse Ranges and Peninsular Ranges have at least one burl-forming *Arctostaphylos* taxon, co-occurring with non-sprouting taxa. In addition, the previously held notion that *A. mewukka* is restricted to an elevational belt between *A. viscida* and *A. patula* has been repeatedly cited as circumstantial evidence of its intermediacy between these taxa and supportive of its hybrid origin. The observations reported here make this argument less compelling although there are other more compelling reasons for this hypothesis (e.g., Schierenbeck et al. ibid).

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SCIRPUS PUMILUS Vahl. (CYPERACEAE).—Mono Co., White Mountains, Cottonwood Creek watershed, South Fork Cottonwood Creek 300 m upstream from its confluence with Poison Creek, T4S, R35E, SW¼ of NW¼ sect. 8, 9 July 1992, *D. W. Taylor 13017* (JEPS, CAS, RSA, RM, COLO, MO), 2877 m elevation, in dense turf codominated by *Carex douglasii, C. praegracilis, C. subnigricans, C. aurea, Muhlenbergia richardsonis* and *Juncus balticus,* associated with *Thalictrum alpinum, Platanthera hyperborea* and *Oxytropus deflexa* var. *sericea* (nomenclature follows J. Hickman